

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00285 151910Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00  
/067 W

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R 151500Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2413  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
USDAO ROME  
USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS  
USDOCOSOUTH

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USNATO PLEASE PASS USDELMC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINR, IT, MORG, NATO  
SUBJECT: NEW ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE

1. MAJOR GENERAL FRANCO BARBOLINI INFORMED ME MARCH 12 THAT HE IS BEING ASSIGNED IN MAY TO REPLACE GENERAL SANTINI AS ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE. BARBOLINI HAS SERVED SINCE NOVEMBER 1976 AS DEPUTY COMMANDER, SICILIAN MILITARY REGION. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT, BARBOLINI COMMANDED THE "FOLGORE" ARMORED DIVISION IN NORTHEAST ITALY AND WAS IN COMMAND OF THAT UNIT DURING ITS HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE FRIULI EARTHQUAKES. PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED COMMAND OF THE ITALIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AT MODENA AND AS ITALIAN ARMY ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS.

2. NEVER PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS ASSIGNMENT TO SICILY (NOR PARTICULARLY FOND OF SICILIANS, THOUGH HE IS MARRIED TO ONE), BARBOLINI SEEMS HAPPY TO BE RETURNING

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TO A MORE ACTIVE BILLET DESPITE SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT LIVING AGAIN IN BRUSSELS. FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES AND IMPRESSED WITH US MILITARY CAPABILITIES, BARBOLINI HAS NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES NOR HAD PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN JOINT COMMANDS WITH AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. HE IS THEREFORE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS MILITARY COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE AND TO ATTENDING SACLANT'S

SYMPOSIUM THIS JUNE. BRIGHT AND WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, BARBOLINI IS AN ENGAGING SOCIAL COMPANION WITH A SARCASTIC TOUCH THAT IS ENTERTAINING RATHER THAN QUARRELSOME. HIS WIFE, A SOMEWHAT DOUR THOUGH PLEASANT RETIRED SCHOOLTEACHER, IS NOT PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN A SOCIAL OR COMMUNITY SENSE AND SEEMS TO SUFFER BOUTS OF ILL-HEALTH. THEY HAVE NO CHILDREN. BORN IN MODENA, AND NOW IN HIS MID-50'S, BARBOLINI WILL PRESUMABLY GET A THIRD STAR WITH HIS ASSIGNMENT TO BRUSSELS. WITH GOOD FRENCH FROM HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT IN BELGIUM, BARBOLINI IS NOW SPENDING 3-4 HOURS PER DAY STUDYING ENGLISH OF WHICH HE PRESENTLY HAS VERY LITTLE COMMAND.

COLLINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEES, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PALERM00285  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D780116-0834  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3324454  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE  
**TAGS:** PINR, MORG, IT, NATO, (BARBOLINI, FRANCO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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